

## 8. On a new Gecko from Penang.

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(Plate XXXVI.)

Among some Reptiles and Batrachians collected on Penang hill (at 2200 feet altitude) by Mr. Stanley Flower, and presented by him to the Natural History Museum, there was a new Gecko of particular interest. At a first glance it appears to be a *Ptychozoon*, that curious form of parachute-bearing Geckos of which we now know two species from South-eastern Asia, viz., *P. homalocephalum*, Crev., and *P. horsfieldi*, Gray. But this resemblance is merely a case of convergence, for whilst *Ptychozoon* is a modified form of *Gecko*, the new lizard is clearly derived from *Hemidactylus*. The gap between the species referred to *Gecko* and those on which *Ptychozoon* is based is so considerable, that the latter genus has been universally accepted by modern herpetologists. But in the present case the matter is not quite so simple; for we have long been acquainted with a species of *Hemidactylus*,—*H. platyurus*, Schn.,—which, by the presence of a well-developed fold along the side, foreshadows the development of the parachute of *Ptychozoon*; however, the scaling on these membranes does not show any modification, and therefore I have thought it fit to found a new genus for the species described below, which differs in the brick-like enlarged scales covering the side-membranes, as well as in the greater development of these membranes and the fuller web between the digits. If *Ptychozoon* deserves to stand as distinct from *Gecko*, it would be illogical not to allow the same rank to the new Penang Lizard. I therefore propose to name it *Mimetozone floweri*.

## MIMETOZONE, gen. nov.

Digits extensively webbed, strongly dilated, with two rows of lamellæ beneath; the two distal phalanges compressed and slender, rising from within the extremity of the dilated portion; all the digits clawed. Limbs and sides of head, body, and tail with much-developed dermal expansions. Upper surfaces covered with juxtaposed granular scales and tubercles, the parachute-membrane covered above with imbricate tetragonal scales arranged like bricks. Pupil vertical.

## MIMETOZONE FLOWERI, sp. nov. (Plate XXXVI.)

Head slightly distinct from neck; snout obtusely pointed, much longer than the distance between the eye and the ear-opening, once and a half the diameter of the orbit; forehead concave; ear-opening oval, horizontal. Body and limbs much depressed; digits short, two-thirds webbed, inner short; five lamellæ under

the inner digit, eight or nine under the fourth; limbs with dermal folds, the largest extending from the vent to the fifth toe. Tail much depressed, bordered on each side by a broad, entire, dermal fold with fringed edge. Rostral quadrangular, broader than deep; nostril pierced between the rostral and four scales; 12 upper and 10 lower labials; symphysial triangular; two pairs of chin-shields, the median forming a suture behind the symphysial. Head, back, and limbs covered with small granules, largest on the snout; occiput and back with numerous small, round, smooth tubercles; ventral scales small, cycloid, imbricate, smooth. Tail covered with small granular scales, the muscular portion with transverse rows of small smooth tubercles above, with a series of transverse shields beneath. Grey above, speckled with brown, with quadrangular dark spots disposed in pairs along the back, connected by brownish bands and wavy transverse lines, and confluent into cross-bars on the tail; a dark streak on each side of the head, passing through the eye; pale yellow beneath, speckled with blackish on the sides, the muscular portion of the tail coral-red. "Iris golden brown."

|               | millim. |           | millim. |
|---------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Total length  | 115     | Fore limb | 17      |
| Head          | 16      | Hind limb | 21      |
| Width of head | 9       | Tail      | 56      |
| Body          | 43      |           |         |

The single specimen is a female.

9. Notes on a Recent Zoological Expedition on the Lower Amazon. By E. E. AUSTEN, Zoological Department, British Museum.

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In the autumn of last year Mr. Alexander Siemens, of the firm of Messrs. Siemens, Bros. & Co., Limited, of Woolwich, being about to proceed to the Amazon in command of an expedition for the purpose of laying a telegraph-cable from Pará to Manaus, and having been much interested by the perusal of the well-known works of Bates and Wallace on the fauna of this particular region of the South-American continent, thought that the expedition would afford an excellent opportunity of increasing the national collections. Mr. Siemens accordingly made a most public-spirited offer to the Trustees of the British Museum to the effect that, should they desire to avail themselves of the opportunity, he would be pleased to take on board his ship, the cable s.s. 'Faraday,' a member of the Museum staff in order to make collections at the various localities on the river with which telegraphic connection would have to be effected. Needless to say, the Trustees accepted the offer in the spirit in which it was made, and through the